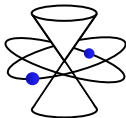



# Nonassociative Geometry and Non-Geometric Backgrounds

Richard Szabo



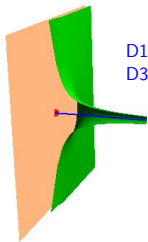
 **cost** Action MP 1405  
Quantum Structure of Spacetime



Division of Theoretical Physics Seminar  
Rudjer Bošković Institute, Zagreb  
April 18, 2018

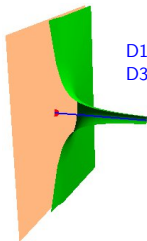
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	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
D1	×						×
D3	×	×	×	×			

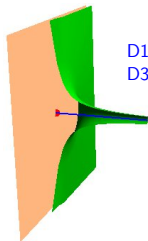
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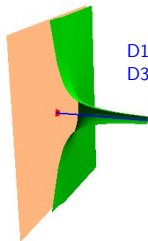
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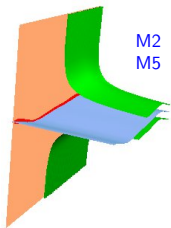
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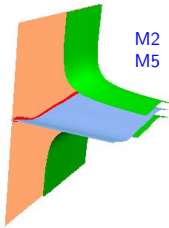
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M5	×	×	×	×	×	×	



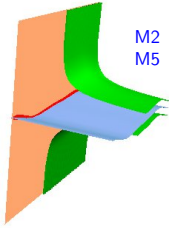
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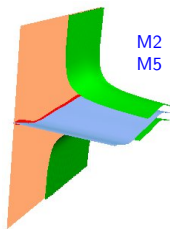
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(Andriot, Hohm, Larfors, Lüst & Patalong '12)

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- ▶ Closure, 3-cyclicity:  $\int f \star g = \int f g$  ,  $\int (f \star g) \star h = \int f \star (g \star h)$



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► Positivity, reality, ... using closure, 3-cyclicity,  
Hermiticity  $(f \star g)^* = g^* \star f^*$ , and unitality  $f \star 1 = f = 1 \star f$

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Quantized spacetime with cells of minimal volume  $\frac{\ell_s^3}{2} R^{ijk}$

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- ▶ Freed–Witten anomaly: No D3-branes on  $T^3$  with  $H$ -flux  $\xrightarrow{T_{ijk}}$   
No D0-branes in  $R$ -flux background (Wecht '07)

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 &= \int_{k_x, k'_x, k''_x} \tilde{f}(k_x) \tilde{g}(k'_x) \tilde{h}(k''_x) e^{-\frac{i \ell^3}{12} R k_x \cdot (k'_x \times k''_x)} e^{i(k_x + k'_x + k''_x) \cdot x}
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- ▶ Choice  $R^{4,\mu\nu\alpha\beta} = R_{\varepsilon}{}^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$  breaks  $SL(5) \longrightarrow SO(4)$

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- $R^{\mu, \nu \rho \alpha \beta} p_\mu = 0 \implies$  7D phase space  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$ :

$$[x^i, x^j] = \frac{i \ell_s^3}{3\hbar} R^{4,ijk4} p_k, \quad [x^4, x^i] = \frac{i \lambda \ell_s^3}{3\hbar} R^{4,1234} p^i$$

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- Reduces to string  $R$ -flux algebra at  $\lambda = 0$  (with  $x^4 = 1$  central)

# Octonionic phase space

## Octonionic phase space

- Originates from nonassociative, alternative, octonion algebra  $\mathbb{O}$ :

$$(x^A) = (x^i, x^4, p_i) = \Lambda(e_A) = \frac{1}{2\hbar} (\sqrt{\lambda \ell_s^4 R/3} f_i, \sqrt{\lambda^3 \ell_s^4 R/3} e_7, -\lambda \hbar e_i)$$



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$$[e_A, e_B, e_C] = -12 \eta_{ABCD} e_D = 6((e_A e_B) e_C - e_A (e_B e_C))$$

$$\eta_{ABCD} = +1 \quad \text{for} \quad ABCD = 1267, 1425, 1346, \dots$$

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$(\mathbb{R}^0, 0)$	$(\mathbb{R}^1, 0)$	$(\mathbb{R}^3, \times)$	$(\mathbb{R}^7, \times_\eta)$
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- ▶ Alternativity  $(X X) X = X (X X)$  defines octonion exponential:

$$e^{X_{\vec{k}}} = \cos |\vec{k}| \mathbb{1} + \frac{\sin |\vec{k}|}{|\vec{k}|} X_{\vec{k}}$$

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- Extend to all  $\vec{k} \in \mathbb{R}^7$ :

$$\vec{B}_\eta(\vec{k}, \vec{k}') = \frac{\sin^{-1} |\vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}'|}{\hbar |\vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}'|} \vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}' \bigg|_{\vec{p}=\vec{k} \sin(\hbar |\vec{k}|)/|\vec{k}|}$$

## Octonionic BCH formula

- BCH formula  $e^{X_{\vec{k}}} e^{X_{\vec{k}'}} = e^{X_{\vec{B}_\eta(\vec{k}, \vec{k}')}}$  can be computed explicitly in terms of **vector star sums** of  $\vec{p}, \vec{p}' \in B^7 \subset \mathbb{R}^7$ :

$$\vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}' = \epsilon_{\vec{p}, \vec{p}'} \left( \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}'|^2} \vec{p} + \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}|^2} \vec{p}' - \vec{p} \times_\eta \vec{p}' \right)$$

- Noncommutativity/nonassociativity:

$$\vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}' - \vec{p}' \circledast_\eta \vec{p} = -2 \vec{p} \times_\eta \vec{p}'$$

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# Quantization of M-theory phase space

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- ▶ Nonassociative phase space star product:

$$(f \star_{\lambda} g)(\vec{x}) = \int_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}'} \tilde{f}(\vec{k}) \tilde{g}(\vec{k}') e^{i \vec{\mathcal{B}}_{\eta}(\Lambda \vec{k}, \Lambda \vec{k}') \cdot \Lambda^{-1} \vec{x}}$$



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- ▶ Gauge-equivalent closed, 3-cyclic star product:

$$f \bullet_{\lambda} g = \mathcal{D}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}f \star_{\lambda} \mathcal{D}g), \quad \mathcal{D} = 1 + O(\lambda)$$

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► Minimal volumes:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle V^{ijk} \rangle &= \frac{\ell_s^3}{2} |R^{4,ijk4} \langle x^4 \rangle|, & \langle V^{ij4} \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2 \ell_s^3}{2} |R^{4,ijk4} \langle x_k \rangle| \\ \langle V^{p_i, x^j, x^k} \rangle &= \frac{\lambda \ell_s^3}{2} |R^{4,1234} (\delta_i^j \langle p^k \rangle - \delta_i^k \langle p^j \rangle)|, & \langle V^{p_i, x^j, x^4} \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2 \ell_s^3}{2} R^{4,ijk4} \langle p_k \rangle \\ \langle V^{p_i, p_j, x^k} \rangle &= \frac{\lambda \hbar^2}{2} |\lambda \varepsilon_{ij}^k \langle x^4 \rangle + \delta_j^k \langle x_i \rangle - \delta_i^k \langle x_j \rangle|, & \langle V^{p_i, p_j, x^4} \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^3 \hbar^2}{2} |\varepsilon_{ijk} \langle x^k \rangle|\end{aligned}$$

# Nonassociative geometry in M-theory



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- Configuration space triproducts:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f \triangle_{\lambda} g \triangle_{\lambda} h)(\vec{x}) &= ((f \star_{\lambda} g) \star_{\lambda} h)(x^{\mu}, p_i) \Big|_{p=0} \\
 &= \int_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}', \vec{k}''} \tilde{f}(\vec{k}) \tilde{g}(\vec{k}') \tilde{h}(\vec{k}'') e^{i \vec{\mathcal{T}}_A(\vec{k}, \vec{k}', \vec{k}'') \cdot \Lambda^{-1} \vec{x}}
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- Quantizes 3-bracket  $[f, g, h]_{\Delta_{\lambda}} = \text{Asym}(f \triangle_{\lambda} g \triangle_{\lambda} h)$  for  $A_4$ :

$$[x^{\mu}, x^{\nu}, x^{\alpha}]_{\Delta_1} = \ell_s^3 R \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} x^{\beta}$$

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- ▶ Familiar from 3D quantum gravity (Freidel & Livine '06)



## *Spin*(7)-structures

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- **Triple cross product** of  $K = (K_{\hat{A}}) = (k_0, \vec{k}) \in \mathbb{R}^8 = \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^7$ :

$$(K \times_{\phi} K' \times_{\phi} K'')_{\hat{A}} := \phi_{\hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C}\hat{D}} K_{\hat{B}} K'_{\hat{C}} K''_{\hat{D}}$$

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- **Trivector**:  $[\xi_{\hat{A}}, \xi_{\hat{B}}, \xi_{\hat{C}}]_{\phi} = \phi_{\hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C}\hat{D}} \xi_{\hat{D}}$  for  $\xi = (\xi_0, \vec{\xi}) = (\mathbb{1}, e_A)$

## **“Covariant” M-theory phase space 3-algebra**

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- 8D phase space coordinates  $X = (x^\mu, p_\mu) = (\Lambda \vec{\xi}, -\frac{\lambda}{2} \xi_0)$  have  $SO(4) \times SO(4)$ -symmetric 3-brackets:

$$[x^i, x^j, x^k]_\phi = -\frac{\ell_s^3}{2} R^{4,ijk4} x^4, \quad [x^i, x^j, x^4]_\phi = \frac{\lambda^2 \ell_s^3}{2} R^{4,ijk4} x_k$$

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$$[p_i, p_j, x^k]_\phi = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k x^4 + \frac{\hbar^2 \lambda}{2} (\delta_j^k x_i - \delta_i^k x_j)$$

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- $SO(4)$ -invariance:** Trivector modelled on negative chirality spinors  $S_-(\mathbb{R}^4)$  (Günaydin, Lüst & Malek '16)

## Vector trisums

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- Restrict  $X_P X_{P'} = (p_0 p'_0 - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{p}') \mathbb{1} + p_0 X_{\vec{p}'} + p'_0 X_{\vec{p}} + X_{\vec{p} \times_\eta \vec{p}'}$   
to  $P, P' \in S^7 \cong Spin(7)/G_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^8$ :

$$X_{\vec{p} \circledast_\eta \vec{p}'} = \text{Im}(X_{P'}, X_P) , \quad \epsilon_{\vec{p}, \vec{p}'} = \text{sgn Re}(X_{P'}, X_P)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \vec{p} \otimes_\phi \vec{p}' \otimes_\phi \vec{p}'' \\ &= \epsilon_{\vec{p}, \vec{p}', \vec{p}''} \left( \epsilon_{\vec{p}', \vec{p}''} \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}' \otimes_\eta \vec{p}''|^2} \vec{p} + \epsilon_{\vec{p}, -\vec{p}''} \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p} \otimes_\eta (-\vec{p}'')|^2} \vec{p}' \right. \\ &+ \epsilon_{\vec{p}, \vec{p}'} \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p} \otimes_\eta \vec{p}'|^2} \vec{p}'' + \vec{A}_\eta(\vec{p}, \vec{p}', \vec{p}'') \\ &+ \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}|^2} (\vec{p}' \times_\eta \vec{p}'') + \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}'|^2} (\vec{p}'' \times_\eta \vec{p}) + \sqrt{1 - |\vec{p}''|^2} (\vec{p} \times_\eta \vec{p}') \Big) \end{aligned}$$

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- Nonassociativity**:  $\text{Asym}(\vec{p} \otimes_\phi \vec{p}' \otimes_\phi \vec{p}'') = \text{Im}(X_{P \times_\phi P' \times_\phi P''})$



# Phase space nonassociative geometry

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- Extend vector trisum to all  $\vec{k} \in \mathbb{R}^7 \subset \mathbb{R}^8$ :

$$\vec{\mathcal{B}}_\phi(\vec{k}, \vec{k}', \vec{k}'') = \frac{\sin^{-1} |\vec{p} \circledast_\phi \vec{p}' \circledast_\phi \vec{p}''|}{\hbar |\vec{p} \circledast_\phi \vec{p}' \circledast_\phi \vec{p}''|} \vec{p} \circledast_\phi \vec{p}' \circledast_\phi \vec{p}'' \bigg|_{\vec{p} = \vec{k} \sin(\hbar |\vec{k}|) / |\vec{k}|}$$

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 &= \vec{k} + \vec{k}' + \vec{k}'' + \hbar (\vec{k} \times_\eta \vec{k}' + \vec{k}'' \times_\eta \vec{k} + \vec{k}' \times_\eta \vec{k}'') \\
 &\quad + \frac{\hbar^2}{2} (2 \vec{A}_\eta(\vec{k}, \vec{k}', \vec{k}'') - |\vec{k}' + \vec{k}''|^2 \vec{k} - |\vec{k} + \vec{k}''|^2 \vec{k}' - |\vec{k}' + \vec{k}|^2 \vec{k}'') \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- Phase space triproducts:

$$(f \diamond_\lambda g \diamond_\lambda h)(\vec{x}) = \int_{\vec{k}, \vec{k}', \vec{k}''} \tilde{f}(\vec{k}) \tilde{g}(\vec{k}') \tilde{h}(\vec{k}'') e^{i \vec{\mathcal{B}}_\phi(\Lambda \vec{k}, \Lambda \vec{k}', \Lambda \vec{k}'') \cdot \Lambda^{-1} \vec{x}}$$

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- $f \star_\lambda g = f \diamond_\lambda 1 \diamond_\lambda g$ ,  $f \triangle_\lambda g \triangle_\lambda h = (f \diamond_\lambda g \diamond_\lambda h)|_{p=0}$

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- $f \star_\lambda g = f \diamond_\lambda 1 \diamond_\lambda g$ ,  $f \triangle_\lambda g \triangle_\lambda h = (f \diamond_\lambda g \diamond_\lambda h)|_{p=0}$
- 3-bracket  $[f, g, h]_{\diamond_\lambda} = \text{Asym}(f \diamond_\lambda g \diamond_\lambda h)$  obeys:

$$[f, g, 1]_{\diamond_\lambda} = -3[f, g]_{\star_\lambda}, \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} [x^i, x^j, x^k]_{\diamond_\lambda} \bigg|_{p=0} = \ell_s^3 R^{ijk}$$